

Sectarian gets 4 months for murder

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli court gave a leading Jewish West Bank settler a four-month sentence Monday for killing a Palestinian but deferred a ruling on whether he would serve the time in a jail. In the West Bank village of Basu Naim, a Palestinian woman who allegedly tried to stab a soldier was shot and critically wounded on Monday by another soldier. Villagers identified her as Nariman Mansour. The court found Pimhas Wallenstein guilty of causing death through negligence in the January 1988 killing of 16-year-old Rabah Hussein Ghanim in Beita village, 16 kilometers north of Jerusalem. The court said it would decide on Aug. 29 whether to sentence Wallenstein to four months in prison or just to public service. He was fined \$5,400 and also given a 12-month sentence suspended for two years. Wallenstein, a regional leader of the settlers, claimed he acted out of self-defense.

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جريدة الأردن تنشر يومية ملحوظة من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)



Mitterrand suggests EC summit

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand said on Monday European Community (EC) heads of state should consider holding an emergency meeting to debate developments in the Soviet Union. He told French television that such a meeting would be worthwhile following Tuesday's meeting of EC foreign ministers in the Hague on the overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev. "It's worth deeper study, joint measures and immediate action to put pressure on the Soviet Union," he said. But he said it was premature to speak of sanctions against Moscow. New Soviet leader Gennady Yanayev has informed Chancellor Helmut Kohl that President Gorbachev is in safety and not under any threat, a German government spokesman said in Bonn. The letter, delivered by Soviet Ambassador Vladislav Terekhov, said Moscow would continue its current reforms and foreign policy, spokesman Norbert Schaefer said. It also explained the new leadership's reasons for ousting Gorbachev, he added.

Hardliners topple Gorbachev

Yanayev, with support from military and KGB, assumes power

Yeltsin puts up stiff resistance

Combined agency dispatches

COMMUNIST HARDLINERS backed by tank columns seized power Monday from President Mikhail Gorbachev in a coup that threatened the reforms he used to transform the Soviet Union and end the cold war. But the seizure of power ran into a defiant challenge from radical leader Boris Yeltsin.

Mr. Gorbachev was detained at his vacation home in the Crimea, said a spokesman for Mr. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Republic.

Vice-President Gennady Yanayev, who took over as president, claimed Mr. Gorbachev was "very tired" and was undergoing treatment for ill health, though he declined to discuss Mr. Gorbachev's exact whereabouts. The action was widely perceived as a coup.

Mr. Gorbachev was to have returned Monday for Tuesday's signing of a treaty, opposed by hardliners, that would have given the restive republics more power at the expense of the Communist-dominated central government.

Mr. Yanayev said he was taking over under a state of emergency and was supported by an eight-member committee that includes the KGB and top military and police officials.

He said, in a press conference later, his government intended "to continue to pursue the reforms that Mr. Gorbachev started in 1985."

Hundreds of armoured vehicles poured into Moscow, and long columns of tanks ploughed up the pavement. Dozens of armoured vehicles surrounded the Russian Federation building.

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the focus of resistance, climbing atop one of the vehicles and urging the Russian people to fight back with an immediate general strike.

The agency said the King and President Assad "exchanged views on the peace process and the proposed solutions for the Arab-Israeli conflict" and agreed to maintain coordination between Jordan and Syria.

Also discussed were means to enhance bilateral relations and follow-up work on the implementation of decisions made by the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, Petra said.

The Soviet armed forces have followed the orders of the ruling Communist Party since the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.

The hardliners, headed by Mr. Yanayev, set up the eight-member leadership committee called the State Committee for the State of Emergency, which declared a six-month state of emergency in the country. Mr. Yanayev was declared acting president.

The committee includes the heads

(Continued on page 5)

Yanayev — a convinced Communist, page 4

World stunned, markets in chaos

Combined agency dispatches

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel compared Monday's events in the Soviet Union with the crushing of the 1968 Prague spring liberalisation movement by Soviet tanks.

"The developments in the Soviet Union cannot but make us recall the sad historical events that took place at this time more than 20 years ago," Mr. Havel told a news conference in Prague.

Poland's President Lech Wałęsa was "very much concerned by the developments in the Soviet Union," a spokesman said.

In Hungary Prime Minister József Antall called in his government's crisis staff to discuss Mr. Gorbachev's removal, Hungarian Radio said.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) called an emergency meeting of senior officials for later Monday at the alliance's Brussels headquarters.

"The recent developments ... are reasons for great concern," NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said in a statement.

European Community foreign ministers will assess relations with Moscow at an emergency meeting on Tuesday, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said.

Many governments said they were deeply concerned and convened crisis sessions.

Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said: "There's ... major anxiety in all the Western capitals and, I imagine, also in countries in central and eastern Europe."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr. Gorbachev's closest Western ally, broke off his holiday, a government spokesman said.

This puts a big question mark

(Continued on page 5)

Dollars, gold and oil prices go up, page 7

King, Assad assess impact of Gorbachev ouster on Mideast

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held talks in the Syrian port city of Latakia Monday and, according to official sources in Amman, the focus of the discussions was expected to be the impact of the changes in the Soviet Union on the Middle East peace process following the ouster of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King, who arrived in Latakia early Sunday, and President Assad "reviewed the developments in political efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and solve the Palestinian problem."

The agency said the King and President Assad "exchanged views on the peace process and the proposed solutions for the Arab-Israeli conflict" and agreed to maintain coordination between Jordan and Syria.

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His Majesty King Hussein with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad at the Syria port city of Latakia Monday

convene a Middle East peace conference in October.

The central theme of the King's talks with President Assad will be the possible impact of the Soviet changes on the Middle East peace process and other related issues," said one official.

The Latakia talks were attended by Prime Minister Tahar Masri, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, and Foreign Minister Abdullatif Ennour as well as Minister of Youth Saleh Israeil and Jordan's Ambassador to Syria Nayef Al Hadid.

On the Syrian side, the talks were attended by Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zonbi, Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharraa and Syria's Ambassador to Jordan Majid Abu Saleh.

The King's visit to Syria —

scheduled prior to the early Monday ouster of Mr. Gorbachev — is his second after the Gulf war ended in late February. On March 25, the King visited Damascus and held talks with President Assad on coordination of positions towards American efforts to arrange Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Senior sources said in Amman that while the central theme for the two leaders' talks remained the Middle East peace process, the focus had shifted to the dramatic developments in Moscow and their effect on efforts to

enhance bilateral relations and follow-up work on the implementation of decisions made by the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, Petra said.

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Middle East News

Israelis call for massive evacuation of Soviet Jews

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli officials called Monday for preparations for a possible large wave of Soviet Jewish immigration following the ouster of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Gorbachev, whose six years of rule transformed the Soviet Union from a repressive nation into a freer society, was declared unable to perform his duties and Vice-President Gennady Yanayev said in an emergency decree that he was taking over as president.

In mid-1989, the Soviet Union opened its gates to Soviet Jews. Since then over 290,000 Soviets have immigrated to Israel.

A statement released by Simcha Dinitz head of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency responsible for immigration, said he hoped "the gates of immigration will continue to remain open and that there be no change" in Soviet policy regarding that.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was "following the situation and looking for more information," a statement from his office said.

Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, told Israel Radio: "The only thing we can do at this time, is first of all to make immediate emergency preparations in Israel ... because it is very possible that in a very short time, large numbers of Jews will arrive."

Science Minister Yuval Neeman, too, said Israel "has to prepare to absorb many Jews if they are allowed to leave."

Mr. Neeman noted that KBG Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov, one of the eight members of the emergency committee, had spoken in a televised speech to the Soviet parliament against the immigration, calling it a "brain drain" that was planned as a

"Western plot."

"So I hope that in any case the situation will not end up with the closing of the gates," he added on Israeli Radio.

About 60,000 Soviet Jews, according to Jewish Agency figures, hold exit permits.

"Many will want to leave," said Mr. Gordon, "because all of us are aware that this may be the end of the Gorbachev regime and if God forbid there will be civil war there, the Jews want to leave in very large numbers."

The Jewish Agency was meeting Monday to reorganise in light of the new situation and Mr. Gordon said transit stations in Eastern Europe would be expanded on "the assumption that they (the Soviet Jews) would be able to leave."

Israeli officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, ruled out a possible airlift of Soviet Jews, mainly for logistical reasons.

In May, Israel evacuated 14,500 Ethiopian Jews from Addis Ababa in a 36-hour airlift as rebels advanced on the Ethiopian capital.

The statement from Mr. Dinitz said "the policy which the Jewish Agency has always taken ... is that we would like to bring out the maximum number of Jews in the minimum amount of time."

Soviet Jewish immigrants learned on arrival in Israel Monday that Mr. Gorbachev had been overthrown and expressed fears for relatives still in the Soviet Union.

"I am afraid of what will happen to my son and his two children who were supposed to come here in the next few days," said Ilia Birgert, a 65-year-old engineer from the Ukraine. "He has got all his papers and I hope nothing will hold him back."

Afghan peace moves threatened

KABUL (R) — The removal of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev could halt efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Afghan war, diplomats said in Kabul Monday.

Pesach Zelman Gerhowitz, 71, and his wife also told Reuters they were concerned for family left in the Soviet Union.

"We have left a daughter behind because her son joined the army two weeks ago and he now has to serve two years, therefore she can't leave. We are very worried," said Mr. Gerhowitz.

There are no direct flights for immigrants between Moscow and Israel and those arriving had left the Soviet Union for transit points in other countries before the removal of Mr. Gorbachev.

The flight from Warsaw was one of four expected to arrive on Monday from Europe, carrying more than 400 Soviet immigrants.

Despite the concern, Areyah Levin of the Israeli consulate in Moscow, which issues visas for Israel to the immigrants, told Israel Radio that work was continuing normally.

An official from the Soviet Civil Aviation Authority sent a cable to Israel's El Al airlines saying civilian air traffic with the Soviet Union was normal.

The Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum, a group aiding Soviet immigrants, called on the Israeli government Monday to work for the immediate evacuation of Jews still in the Soviet Union.

This may lead to more support for the Kabul regime and a hardening of the Soviet position on Afghanistan," a spokesman for the Jamaat-i-Islami group said.

Though Mr. Gorbachev oversaw the withdrawal of more than 100,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan by February 1989, he has continued to pour in huge amounts of weapons, fuel and food to prop up Mr. Najibullah.

With the withdrawal, U.S. interest in backing the Mujahedeen through Pakistan began to wane and Afghanistan came to be regarded as a relic of the cold war that both Washington and Moscow wanted removed from their agendas.

Radical guerrilla leader Younis Khalis said in an interview he believed the Soviet change could help to revive the Mujahedeen's war against Kabul.

"Both the Soviets and the Americans did not particularly want to see an independent Afghanistan," the head of Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) said.

"The possibilities are greater now that America will not abandon Afghanistan."

The Iraqi occupation was ended by allied troops on Feb. 26. U.N. teams have been travelling to Iraq over the past several months to find and destroy Iraqi nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Destruction of the weapons was called for under the April 3 ceasefire resolution that formally ended the Gulf war.

Iraq has repeatedly been accused by the U.N. inspection teams of understating the quantity of its weapons of mass destruction and of trying to hide some from the U.N. inspectors.

The security sources, who insisted on anonymity, said the vat of chemicals was discovered in a school yard. Schools are in the process of being cleaned up and repaired for the opening of the academic year next Saturday.

Officials at the British embassy in Kuwait had no immediate comment on the report.

U.N. officials, headquartered in Doha north of Kuwait City, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Officials at the special U.N. commission in Bahrain, which is supervising the inspection of nuclear and chemical sites in Iraq, said it had no information about the chemicals in Kuwait.

Numerous rumours had circulated in Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation that chemical weapons had been brought in and were ready to use. Reports at the time said that they were in graves.

The vat — measuring about one metre by three metres — was standing on skids. There was a bullet hole near the top, allowing some of the dangerous chemicals

British businessman shot dead in Turkey

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — A gunman killed a British businessman on his way to the office Monday, a British embassy spokesperson said.

Anonymous callers claiming to speak for two underground organisations, the Islamic Jihad and the leftist Dev Sol organisation, claimed responsibility, newspaper reported.

Andrew Blake, the deputy director of the British Commercial Union Assurance Company, was shot at about 8 a.m. right after he stepped out of an elevator, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Mr. Blake, 33, was shot twice in the head and was in a coma when he was taken to a hospital, where he died while undergoing surgery, Anatolia said.

An anonymous caller to the Istanbul daily Cumhuriyet said "the Islamic Jihad undertook its first real action in Turkey to protest the deployment of a multinational force in Turkey," the newspaper said.

The caller, which spoke in broken Turkish, identified himself as a Turkish Kurd, the newspaper said.

A U.S.-led multinational force had been stationed in Turkey after its withdrawal from northern Iraq, which followed a four-month mission of repatriating Iraqi Kurds. There are 173 Britons among the multinational force.

The Iraqi Kurds had fled to the mountains on the Iraq-Turkey border following a failed Kurdish rebellion against the Iraqi government in March, after the Gulf war. Iraqi troops crushed the rebellion.

The Iraqi Kurds had been blamed for the Feb. 7 killing of American customs expert Bobbie Mozzel, who worked for the same company that employed Mr. Blake.

It also said it was responsible for the killing of American John Gandy — Vinnell, Brown and Root.

Commercial Union Turkey, a joint venture of Commercial Union Assurance Company of Britain and the private local Finansbank, was hit by a bomb planted by Dev Sol during the Gulf crisis.

A spokeswoman for the company, located in Istanbul's central business district Gayrettepe, said in tears that it had no clue as to who killed Mr. Blake. He had been in Turkey for about a year and leaves a wife and two children, aged seven and three.

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1995

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

4 killed, four hurt in Lebanese tanker blast

BEIRUT (AP) — An explosion and fire aboard an oil tanker unloading in the port of Tripoli killed five people and injured four others, the ship's chief mechanic said Monday. The mechanic, Garo Koibitiana, said officials did not know what caused the explosion Sunday afternoon aboard the Panamanian-flagged Greek-owned Tita Minerva as it was unloading fuel three kilometres off the port of Tripoli, 80 kilometres north of Beirut. He said the blast ignited a fire that destroyed most of the cabin on the tanker. Mr. Koibitiana said all of the dead were Panamanian sailors and that three of the injured were Filipinos.

Iranian oil minister meets King Fahd

JEDDAH (AP) — Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh met with King Fahd and delivered a message from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Monday. The agency did not disclose the contents of the message or give any other details on the talks held late Sunday night. Saudi Arabia was the second leg of Mr. Aqazadeh's Gulf tour and followed a one-day stop in Kuwait. Mr. Aqazadeh held talks earlier with acting Saudi Oil Minister Abdul Wahab Al Attar. During that meeting, SPA said the two discussed strengthening bilateral relations, especially in the petroleum field. Diplomatic sources said Mr. Aqazadeh's visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia coincides with the preparation for the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in Geneva on Sept. 24. Saudi Arabia is the leading OPEC producer with a quota of 8.03 million barrels per day. Iran has a quota of 3.2 million barrels daily. Total OPEC production ceiling is 22.2 with the exclusion of Kuwait and Iraq.

Mubarak meets Yemeni foreign minister

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met Yemen's foreign minister Monday in the first visit to Egypt by a senior minister from Sanaa since the Gulf war. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Abdur Karim Al Iryani, carrying a letter for Mr. Mubarak from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, met the Egyptian president in Alexandria. Yemen sympathised with Iraq during the war and opposed the U.S.-led military campaign to recapture Kuwait from Iraqi occupation forces. Cairo was a key member of the anti-Iraq alliance. Mr. Iryani arrived Sunday and told reporters after meeting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa that his country supported U.S. plans for a Middle East peace conference.

Israel and Albania establish diplomatic ties

TEL AVIV (R) — Albania and Israel established diplomatic relations Monday, the Foreign Ministry said. Albanian Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy signed the protocol. The two countries have never had official relations but they have improved in recent months. In April, Israel airlifted more than 300 Albanian Jews to the Jewish state. Formerly hardline Communist Albania, Europe's poorest country, held multi-party elections in March and has had a non-partisan unity government since June.

Mauritania announces more amnesties

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Mauritania Sunday announced an amnesty for people sentenced in absentia who have been in exile for 15 years or more. A decree published in the capital Nouakchott was the second amnesty programme announced by President Maouya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya in three weeks. It said those eligible had one month to apply, after which the programme would expire. Mr. Ould Taya's government has on several occasions denounced what it claimed were plots by the desert country's blacks to overthrow the ruling moorish elite. Amnesty International and other human rights groups have accused the government of killing, torturing and imprisoning hundreds of blacks.

Palestinians are pleased

(Continued from page 1) soon," the statement said. It was not clear whether any specific date or other details for a summit were discussed in the Cairo meeting.

The PLO said Sunday it alone would decide the composition of a Palestinian delegation to the peace conference.

It said in a statement this was one of the guarantees Palestinians would seek from the United States ahead of the conference.

This and other guarantees sought by Palestinians have been the subject of weekend talks in London by a committee of PLO officials, Palestinian nationalist leaders and academics.

The committee is expected to conclude its work on Monday outlining the Palestinian approach on guarantees the PLO requires from the United States regarding the Middle East peace conference, the PLO statement said.

The PLO statement said the recommendations of the London committee, working on instructions from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, would focus on "the necessity for guarantees that the goal of the proposed conference be to enforce U.N. resolution 242 requiring an end to Israeli occupation and its withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967."

Ethiopia denies Israeli claims

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Ethiopia Monday vehemently denied Israeli claims that it had agreed to allow the immigration of 2,600 Ethiopian Jews left behind after a dramatic airlift of thousands of Jews in May.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that there was no agreement on the immigration of the Ethiopian Jews to Israel and that the government had not discussed the subject with Israeli authorities.

The transitional government of Ethiopia categorically states that no, repeat, no such agreement exists and in fact the government has never even discussed such an issue with the government of Israel or any other party," the statement said.

The transitional government of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, which seized control after President Mengistu Haile Mariam resigned and fled May 21 in the face of the rebel advance, has said it is not opposed in principle to the immigration of the Jews.

But the statement did not elaborate on why the transitional government was taking this stand on immigration questions.

The statement contradicted reports in Israel Friday first by the news media and later by the Israeli foreign ministry that said Ethiopia had agreed to allow the Jews to leave and that the first group of 600 would be brought to Israel before the Sept. 9 Jewish new year.

The remaining 2,000 Jews were to travel from their villages in the Gonder province to the capital, about 700 kilometers away, and then fly to Israel on commercial airliners.

Likud says 'autonomy' is the only solution

CAIRO (R) — Members of Israel's right-wing Likud Party said during their first official visit to Egypt that autonomy for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was the only way to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said he hoped President Hosni Mubarak and other Egyptian leaders would visit Israel and open a dialogue with Israelis to help peace efforts.

"I say after 13 years of peace (with Egypt), we still don't have any meetings between the leaders of our countries," he said. "How can you convince us to speak about peace with other countries... (when) we have such a peace which is not so warm?"

Diplomats have described Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, the Jewish State's only peace treaty with an Arab state, as being a cold peace.

Mr. Mubarak has refused to invite Mr. Shamir for an official visit to Egypt and has personally blamed him for blocking a Middle East peace settlement. He has said he could visit Israel if he believed it would achieve concrete results.

Mr. Mubarak said East Jerusalem, seized and "annexed" by Israel during the 1967 war, was subject to U.N. Resolution 242, which demands Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

He told Mr. Mubarak that the Likud believed Jerusalem was "united and must remain united."

When the foreign minister (Mr. Mubarak) speaks about it as occupied territory, I told him no. It is not occupied territory (as the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip..." he said.

Israel has given qualified support for Arab-Israeli peace talks provided they do not involve delegations from East Jerusalem or representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The proposal could be extended to Mujahedeen commanders inside the country who are trying to topple the Najibullah government.

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Officials at the British embassy in Kuwait had no immediate comment on the report.

U.N. officials, headquartered in Doha north of Kuwait City, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Officials at the special U.N. commission in Bahrain, which is supervising the inspection of nuclear and chemical sites in Iraq, said it had no information about the chemicals in Kuwait.

Numerous rumours had circulated in Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation that chemical weapons had been brought in and were ready to use. Reports at the time said that they were in graves.

The vat — measuring about one metre by three metres — was standing on skids. There was a bullet hole near the top, allowing some of the dangerous chemicals

Vat of Iraqi chemicals discovered in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — A vat of mustard gas and another lethal chemical, apparently left behind by Iraqi troops, has been discovered in Kuwait City, Western security sources said Monday.

The vat of mustard gas and another source said it was leaking out the side, one source said.

Another source, who also insisted on anonymity, said that the possibility the vat had stored industrial waste had been ruled out because neither mustard gas nor phosgene were likely by products of manufacturing.

The report said the vat found in Kuwait contained 500 gallons of chemicals, or "enough for filling 250 shells."

It said samples had been sent to U.N. experts and that a British team had been asked to destroy the vat and its contents.

Officials at the British embassy in Kuwait had no immediate comment on the report.

U.N. officials, headquartered in Doha north of Kuwait City, could not immediately be reached for comment.

SSC retirement law reaffirmed

AMMAN (G.T.) — Citizens covered by the Social Security Corporation (SSC) law can claim early retirement at the age of 45 and receive pension from the SSC provided they have subscribed to the SSC for at least 15 years, according to an SSC official.

He said that pension would be calculated in accordance with the age, which means that the older a beneficiary is, the larger the pension is, depending on his salary and the premiums.

According to the official, people between 46 and 50 years of age, claiming pension, will have their pension reduced by 10 per cent; those aged 51 to 54 will have their pension reduced by only five per cent.

In accordance with the SSC laws, beneficiaries who reached the age of 55 will receive full pension in accordance with the SSC scale which takes into account age, salary and the premiums paid over the years.

SSC Director General Mohammad Saqqaf told the Jordan Times that there was no motive behind the announcement at this particular time. He said that the announcement was a mere reassertion of the laws of the SSC, drawing public attention to the

fact that citizens are entitled to early retirement under the SSC law.

Mr. Saqqaf said that a total of 220,000 beneficiaries were currently covered by the SSC law. They are all entitled to the early retirement scheme provided they have met all the requirements.

Last month, Mr. Saqqaf announced that the SSC expected to collect JD 26 million in revenues by the end of 1991 from its JD 400 million investments in economic projects in Jordan.

Out of this sum, JD 20 million

will be needed to cover the corporation's obligations and expenses for the year, leaving a surplus of JD 6 million, according to Mr. Saqqaf.

The SSC invests in the agriculture, industry, tourism, and other areas which earn profits for the beneficiaries, said Mr. Saqqaf.

Mr. Saqqaf said that SSC currently pays monthly pensions to 11,500 families. A total of 143,500 people have already received a lump sum compensation at the end of their services, while 64,000 workers have benefited from compensation and permanent payments after incurring occupational injuries.

Exporters trying to take advantage of CBJ decision

AMMAN (J.T.) — Encouraged by a Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) decision to cancel a 1988 order requiring exporters to furnish guarantees that proceeds of exports in foreign currency be remitted to the country, representatives of exporters of agricultural products Monday held a meeting to discuss ways to benefit from the new opportunities.

The meeting, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, was attended by the director general of an agricultural marketing organisation, the president of the Jordanian Exporters Association and exporters of vegetables and fruits.

According to Petra, the participants decided to set up a committee to work out a set of rules designed to organise the exporters' operations.

New centre for handicapped children opened in Mafraq

MAFRAC (I.T.) — Although the number of handicapped people in Jordan is estimated to be close to eight per cent of the population, only 8,000 of that number receive care at the Kingdom's 58 rehabilitation centres, according to the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) President Dr. Abdullah Al Khath.

To care for the handicapped, he said, the country requires JD 50 million a year but the available funds are only between JD 4 and JD 5 million, Dr. Khath said in an address at a ceremony for the inauguration of a new branch of the Al Amal Centre for Special Education in Mafraq.

Her Majesty Queen Noor opened the branch, which is run by GUVS, and inspected its various activity halls and other utilitarian facilities.

The Queen was told that the centre cares for those with simple disabilities, between the PLO ages of six and 12. The Mafraq branch can take up to 50 mentally handicapped children plus 25 who suffer from difficulties in hearing and speech.

The centre is one of nine which GUVS is building in Jordan. Four of these have already been completed and one is under construction in Salt. During 1991, GUVS expects to start working on another centre in Tafila.

The Al Amal Centre for Special Education offers day care for

Jordanians welcome change in Soviet leadership

Leftist parties hope new government reestablishes USSR as world power

By Marian M. Shahin

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Leaders of leftist parties in Jordan Monday welcomed the exit of Mikhail Gorbachev from the international political scene, saying that the Soviet Union had not only ceased to be a world superpower but had been paralysed by the former Soviet leader's unfulfilled political and economic programme.

"Last month, Mr. Saqqaf announced that the SSC expected to collect JD 26 million in revenues by the end of 1991 from its JD 400 million investments in economic projects in Jordan.

Out of this sum, JD 20 million

will be needed to cover the corporation's obligations and expenses for the year, leaving a surplus of JD 6 million, according to Mr. Saqqaf.

Citing a significant change in Soviet foreign policy, in particular towards developing nations in the Middle East, leaders of Jordan's main leftist parties said they hoped the change would reverse the Soviet attitude towards the problems of developing nations.

"Mr. Gorbachev failed to deal

in any adequate way with the domestic problems that his country is facing," said Issa Madanat,

Jordan's only Communist Member of Parliament. "There can be

no doubt that the Soviet Union

was heading towards an internal break-up as a result of the perestroika policies and the Soviet weakness to the uni-polar power,

the United States."

Reflecting the general attitude of leftists in the country, Mr. Madanat said: "We hope that with Gorbachev gone, the Soviets will have another chance to keep their country in one piece and deal with their internal problems and reform their foreign policy to one that is independent of United States dictates."

Another leading member of the once outlawed Jordanian Communist Party, Emile Nafa, said that while she had initially welcomed perestroika as a format in which the Soviet Union would

move towards a democratic

socialist state, the policy intro-

duced by the former Soviet leader

almost five years ago had failed to

have that desired effect.

"We hope that now the Soviet

Union will get back on course to

develop a framework which will

allow a more democratic socialist

system to govern," Mrs. Nafa said.

"To catapult a society such as

the Soviet Union from a strict

communist to a capitalist one is

rather unrealistic and this was

never expected to work."

Meanwhile, the head of the

specialist-oriented Jordan Peo-



Issa Madanat

ples Democratic Party (JPDP) said that the group's Executive Committee had met to decide on an official position on the question of the power change in the Soviet Union.

"We hope that the changes in the Soviet Union will bring back a balance of power to the international political arena," said Yousef Zibri, head of the JPDP.

Commenting on the Soviet Middle East policy of late, Mr. Zibri said that he also hoped the Soviet government would reassess its willingness to re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

The old policy had been to re-establish ties only after the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. But as a result of the strong American influence of Gorbachev, the Soviets had recently agreed to resume ties at the beginning of a peace conference," Mr. Zibri said.

This would mean regardless of Israeli application of the resolutions 242 and 338 they would establish relations, which is quite contrary to their previous conditional stand."

Lower House Deputy Deeh Marji, a leading member of the Marxist Jordan Popular Unity Party (JPUP), reacted by saying the world needed a balance which it had lost.

"I believe that the Soviets will end their blind acceptance of American hegemony over the world and will reinstate some of their previous policies," Mr. Khayyat said.

Among the pre-perestroika policies that Mr. Khayyat said he hoped the Soviet government would reinstate was a serious domestic economic policy and a rebuff of Zionist influences.

A computer specialist agreed with Mr. Sudah's stand, saying

of course we hope that internal problems will remain minimal, but overall, we feel that Gorbachev's departure is positive thing," he said.

Mr. Marji, like Mr. Zibri, expressed hope that massive Jewish Soviet immigration to Israel and the occupied Arab lands would be curbed as a result of Monday's changes in leadership.

"Mr. Gorbachev made the large influx of Soviet Jewry to the Middle East possible. We hope those who take his place will curb this trend," he said.

Yousef Hourani, a member of the political bureau of the socialist Jordan Democratic Party, said that the two most important immediate aspects of the political changes taking place in the Soviet Union would be to maintain internal unity and to recreate a balance of international political forces.

"The new ruling forces in the Soviet Union must find a formula to maintain national unity in the state and to recreate a bi-polar international political system," Mr. Hourani said.

Walid Khayyat, a popular leftist leader who heads the Electrical Workers Union and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, also welcomed the changes in the Soviet Union.

"It is important for the Soviet Union to act as a check and balance system because the U.S. should not be allowed to have a free hand (over the world)," he said.

"We announce our support for the new Soviet administration because it will work on developing cooperation and coordination in different parts of the world and it will work on protecting peace and international security which has been tilted towards the U.S.," said Marwan Sudah, a representative of an anti-Zionism front in the Arab and Muslim world.

Unlike others interviewed by the Jordan Times, Mr. Sudah expressed confidence that this new administration will stand by the Arab peoples in combating Zionism."

He also said that the head of their front in the Soviet Union is Alexander Remenko, a reserve officer in the Soviet army and the head of six different political parties in the USSR.

A computer specialist agreed with Mr. Sudah's stand, saying

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1991 3

Public hoping new regime stems flow of Jews to occupied Arab territories

By Sareen Halasa and Nur Satia
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The fall of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday sent shock waves throughout the world but many Jordanians hoped that this would put an end to American hegemony over world politics and restore the traditional role of the Soviet Union as the champion of the Third World.

In a survey conducted by the Jordan Times, many of those interviewed expressed reservations about the new regime in the Soviet Union, saying it was too early to make any definite conclusion regarding Soviet policy toward the Middle East.

"What happened is a serious development and many changes will take place," said Dr. Sari Nasir, a sociologist at the University of Jordan. "But we should wait and see, especially regarding (Soviet) Jewish immigration (to Palestine)."

"The new ruling forces in the Soviet Union must find a formula to maintain national unity in the state and to recreate a bi-polar international political system," Mr. Hourani said.

"What happened is a serious development and many changes will take place," said Dr. Sari Nasir, a sociologist at the University of Jordan. "But we should wait and see, especially regarding (Soviet) Jewish immigration (to Palestine)."

"It is important that the Soviet Union remain strong to maintain the balance of super powers," she added.

"He should have made his stand clear. He did not have a fixed internal policy."

According to Dr. Hamarneh, the shift from a centralised government economy to a free market economy was too quick and the reforms were based on a U.S. formula that "is not the best."

"It reduced the Soviet Union to a power that was only a military power and the crisis in Iraq proved that," he added.

As for the future of communism, the Armenian community in Jordan expressed concern over the fate of the five million Armenians in the Soviet Union.

"We are very much afraid. History taught us (Armenians) that everything there is a change in the Soviet Union, my people suffer most," the Armenian said.

"Communism is a system that does not work. It never worked and I hope it will fall sooner or later."

"This will reintroduce the debate over communism and it will be interesting to show that communism and democracy are not incompatible," Dr. Hamarneh said.

On the other hand, Dr. Hamarneh welcomed a development in the Soviet Union that would maintain democracy and internal reform as well as continuing good links with Third World countries.

Israel continues systematic confiscation of Arab land

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is keen on offering all forms of assistance to the returning ex-patriates and will do so through the zakat committees affiliated to the ministry, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Rafi Nijem announced Monday.

The ministry and the zakat committees will be coordinating their work with a national committee set up by the government last week to take charge of offering assistance to the expatriates," said the minister at a meeting held at King Abdullah Mosque and attended by directors of awqaf and zakat funds in Jordan.

"We will have to carry out our mission as a united team, offering charity and help in all areas and in any form," said the minister in his address to the audience.

The return of the expatriates comes at a serious moment in Arab history as the Kingdom continues to face political and economic pressures designed to force it change its principled and honourable stands and abandon its Arab and Islamic brothers, said the minister. He said that by helping the Arab expatriates he is doing our religious and humanitarian duty."

Mosque preachers last Friday issued appeals to the worshippers to extend a helping hand to the returning expatriates. They sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein.

It said that 4,000 Palestinians are now under administrative detention without trial.

The statement said that Israeli authorities are now planning to build a new prison in the Galilee area to accommodate another 580 detainees. Israeli officials have imposed curfews on tens of Arab cities and villages in the past three years, causing further suffering to the indigent population, according to the report.

Furthermore, Israeli authorities have periodically closed Arab schools and detained teachers, preventing children from continuing their basic education.

All Arab universities in the occupied territories have been closed since the start of the intifada, except for Bethlehem University, which was reopened in October.



Rafi Nijem

seen pledging to do all in their power to contribute to the national effort.

Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel said the sermons in mosques had drawn very positive reaction on the part of the members of the public.

In addressing the audience after the minister, Dr. Hilayel said that Jordan was keen on maintaining unity of ranks among Muslims and Arabs. He warned against the enemies' attempts to dismember the Arab Nation.

Dr. Hilayel appealed to world organisations to come to Jordan's help as the Kingdom, he said, has only limited resources to offer assistance to the expatriates and can by means shoulder the additional burdens by itself.

In another development, Mr.

Nijem left for Cairo to represent Jordan at the constituent meeting of the International Islamic Council for Relief which is due to open Tuesday.

In its four-day meeting, the Council will discuss projects related to Jerusalem, including custodianship of Al Aqsa Mosque, protection to the religious and historical places of the city, creation of a special fund to take charge of the protection of Islamic lands in Jerusalem, and the reconstruction of the holy Dome of the Rock, the minister said in a pre-departure statement.

Referring to the reconstruction of the Dome of the Rock, he said that it was expected to cost \$7 million.

"These projects in the holy city are the responsibility of the Islamic governments and people and not of Jordan alone, as the case had been since 1948," said Mr. Nijem.

He said that Jordan had very limited financial means and could not cover the expenses by itself.

"So far, the Kingdom has spent \$6 million on the repair of the Dome of the Rock and other related services over the past two years and continues to finance the work of technical committees in the holy city," the minister added.

Mr. Nijem is accompanied to the Cairo meeting by the director of his office.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan visits special forces unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday visited one of the special forces units at its training site. Prince Hassan was briefed on the stages of training process the unit finished and its future training plans. The Crown Prince then watched the unit perform military exercises with live ammunition. The exercises included shooting selected targets. His Royal Highness then met with the unit's personnel and conveyed to them the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein. The exercise was attended by the Armed Forces deputy chief of staff for operations and training affairs, the inspector general and senior army officers.</

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After Gorbachev

MONDAY'S coup d'état in Moscow, in which Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was removed from power, came as a shock to the world, especially to all those who had placed their trust and confidence in democracy and reformism as instruments for peaceful change and evolution towards the better. Obviously it is too early to assess the situation now emerging in the Soviet Union or its full impact whether in the positive or negative sense. Yet there is already fear that the country may be thrown deeper into disarray and instability, something that will surely have a profound negative impact on many countries of the world. Given what has happened on the international level over the past few years, one can understand, even sympathise, with the Soviet forces who were naturally troubled by the dismantling of their country and rendering it a second class power instead of a superpower to reckon with. The timing of the coup which occurred on the eve of signing the new union treaty that Gorbachev himself had brokered as a reformist model to keep the country together suggests that the hardliners in fact feared that this new treaty could be the beginning of the end for their country.

From a global point of view the loss of the Soviet Union of its status as a superpower had not only troubled the traditional forces but also deprived the international order of the necessary checks and balances mechanism that is essential if not indispensable for maintaining a sound international order. Just as pluralism is vital to an operational democracy on a national level so is pluralism indispensable on the international scene as well. The best evidence of the deterioration in the status of Moscow was the humiliation that Gorbachev himself had sustained when he made a last ditch effort to avoid the ground war in the Gulf but was ignored by his American counterpart George Bush as a third rate leader trying to meddle in the offensive campaign against Iraq. There is no doubt that all those powers in the world which refrained from extending effective and timely support to the perestroika and glasnost policies of Mr. Gorbachev also bear the brunt of the responsibility for his downfall.

The impact of yesterday's dramatic change in the Soviet Union on political developments in the Middle East, including the peace process and the Iraqi situation, will likewise be profound and far reaching. If the cold war era has once again a grip on East-West relations, the peace initiative for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict could go to the backburner if not disappear altogether. On the other hand, a stepped up exodus of Soviet Jews into Israel, a particularly sour point from the Arab point of view, can be expected to be frustrated. If there is a return to traditional Soviet policies in the area, the Arab hand may be strengthened in any negotiations with Israel but to what extent and to what end is something that is clearly premature to assess. The iron blockade imposed on Iraq may also ease if the new leadership refuses to play second fiddle to the basically Western campaign against not only the Iraqi leadership but also the entire Iraqi nation and its people. It must be recalled that many senior Soviet generals were overtly disgruntled at the sight of disproportionate Western military operations against Iraq which happens to be so close to their southern flank. Yet, the biggest setback is the probable return to the cold war period, especially if the domestic situation in the USSR breaks down in ethnic and national turmoil and bloodshed forcing Washington and the other Western capitals to take a firm stand against maintaining the unity and territorial integrity of the Soviet Union by force. With the dawning of a new cold war situation, the advent of global nuclear warfare would become once again a real prospect instead of being a remote possibility as it is at this time. Mankind therefore has a stake in the ending of the confrontation era between Moscow and Washington on equal and fair basis acceptable to all.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily fiercely attacked the United States and its Western allies, particularly Britain and France, for pursuing their aggressive stand against Iraq and the Iraqi people depriving them of their means of subsistence and maintaining an embargo on Iraq's trade. The paper said that the Iraqis are now exposed to danger, coming not only from the Western aggressors but also from the Arab countries. It said that Iraq is bleeding, but with dignity, and is facing the criminals alone. The Iraqi people are trying to cope with the situation hoping that their Arab and Muslim brothers would do something and they had never lost hope, the paper added. We condemn the aggressors acts against Iraq but we do not despair, nor do we fear the future, because this Arab Nation has confronted many dangers and aggressors in the past and is likely to do that in the future as well, said Al Ra'i. The paper said that history will curse those Arabs who fail to extend a helping hand to their brothers in need.

Sawt Al Shabab daily commented on His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Syria and said that coordination among the Arab states in direct confrontation with the Israeli enemy is a must at this juncture. The paper said the King's visit is aimed at exchanging views with the Syrian leaders before the beginning of the proposed peace conference in October. The Arabs can at least achieve unity of stand and purpose so that they can confront Israel's intransigence at the negotiating table, the paper noted. It said that the U.S. is unwilling to exercise any form of pressure on the Israeli aggressors, who are showing no flexibility in their stand, and so the Arabs should show solidarity and concert their efforts and unite their stand so as to regain their rights through peaceful negotiations. The paper said that King Hussein is spearheading the Arab countries' efforts to open channels of communication in the Arab World which is confronting Israel. There is an urgent need for the Arabs, the paper said, to follow in his footsteps in order to safeguard the higher national interests and secure the liberation of usurped Arab lands.

Yanayev, 'a convinced communist', becomes Soviet president

only partially successful.

"I am a convinced communist to the depth of my soul. You can't make me budge from that," Mr. Yanayev told parliament.

Many legislators despaired at the selection of yet another party chief from the central bureaucracy, and a coalition of radical and republican deputies joined forces to deny him the post in the first round of voting.

Mr. Gorbachev then declared he was putting Mr. Yanayev's candidature forward for another vote.

"I support the ideas of perestroika," Mr. Yanayev told a somewhat sceptical Congress of People's Deputies after his nomination. "I have served them, I do serve them and I will continue to serve them."

If elected vice-president, he said, he would campaign "using legal democratic methods by arousing respect for the law among citizens against the political bacchanalia and political nihilism which the country is seeing."

"I am a man of action and want to work in the interests of my long-suffering people," the optimistic Yanayev said between the two rounds of voting. "The more difficult the victory the greater satisfaction from its result."

In the end it was on Mr. Gorbachev's long coat-tails, rather than Mr. Yanayev's own conciliatory rhetoric that he rode to victory.

Mr. Yanayev rose through the Communist Party's ranks in what is now dismissed in Moscow as

the "stagnation period" under Leonid Brezhnev in the late 70s.

After years as a leader in the Komsomol, the party's youth organisation movement, 54-year-old Yanayev finally made it to the heights of party politics — a seat on the politburo.

But by the time of his appointment in mid-1990 at the 28th party congress, the once all-powerful politburo was in steep decline, no longer a clear asset to a politician on the make.

Mr. Yanayev, a stocky, bearty man who likes ice hockey, disarmed some of his critics in parliament with earthy Russian humour.

Asked about his health — always a concern in a country where life expectancy is low —

Mr. Yanayev said: "My wife says I am in good health. I have the same ailments as any normal, real man. I am a red-blooded fellow."

A Russian born in 1937, Mr. Yanayev graduated in 1959 from an agricultural institute in Gorky, since renamed Nizhny Novgorod.

He later studied law and won a doctorate in history.

His doctoral thesis, "problems of Trotskyism and Anarchy," written at the Moscow Institute of the Workers' Movement, tackled a potentially explosive topic that would have been permitted only to the most ideologically reliable of students.

In 1980, Mr. Yanayev was named head of the committee on Soviet youth organisations. The Helsinki Sanomat, Fin-

land's biggest newspaper, recalled that Mr. Yanayev was a frequent visitor to the country, where his assertive style won him the secret nickname "ribeloceros."

The daily said Mr. Yanayev sided with hardliners in their struggle in the 1970s with the Eurocommunist wing of Finland's party.

In 1989, Mr. Yanayev was given the task of carving out a new image for the Soviet trade Union Movement after seven decades under strict Communist Party control.

But he failed to win much sympathy among increasingly disillusioned workers, particularly miners, who regarded him as a colourless bureaucrat.

who served them would have to cede place and privileges to a new meritocracy — politicians elected by the people in free elections and business executives chosen not for their connections but for their merit.

Mr. Gorbachev moved carefully into the Soviet hierarchy, giving no one a good idea of what he had in mind for the country.

In 1979, under conservative President Leonid I. Brezhnev, he managed to have himself named to the politburo, the Communist Party's ruling body. Little was known about him other than that he had a specialty in agriculture, a no-win area of the Soviet economy.

He remained a little-known figure through the end of Brezhnev's reign but gained some stature during the short rules of his successors, Yuri V. Andropov and Konstantin U. Chernenko. Finally, in March 1985, he took over the party leadership, and change began with the slow speed but relentless movements of a freight train.

He began his reform programme in earnest in 1986, making the terms glasnost — public openness on selected controversial topics — and perestroika — radical overhaul of the economy — words known worldwide.

He freed dissidents from prison and freed the press from stifling censorship.

In 1988, he presided over the dissolution of the old Supreme Soviet, the communists' rubber-stamp national legislature, and replaced it with the first of several new institutions more like a Western parliament.

In 1989, he pulled Soviet troops out of war in Afghanistan and was elected president.

Last year, he ended the Communist Party's official monopoly on power and moved to create a stronger presidency.

He was ousted from power just before he was to tie up key details of the union treaty, an accord that would have given strong new powers to the union's 15 republics, further weakening the central government but perhaps heading off attempts by some republics to secede.

The great experiment now stands in deadly jeopardy. Some parts of it may well be picked up by new rulers.

Shevardnadze and Alexander Yakovlev quit, warning that the country could be headed into a reactionary reversal, questions were raised in the administration about Mr. Gorbachev's staying power.

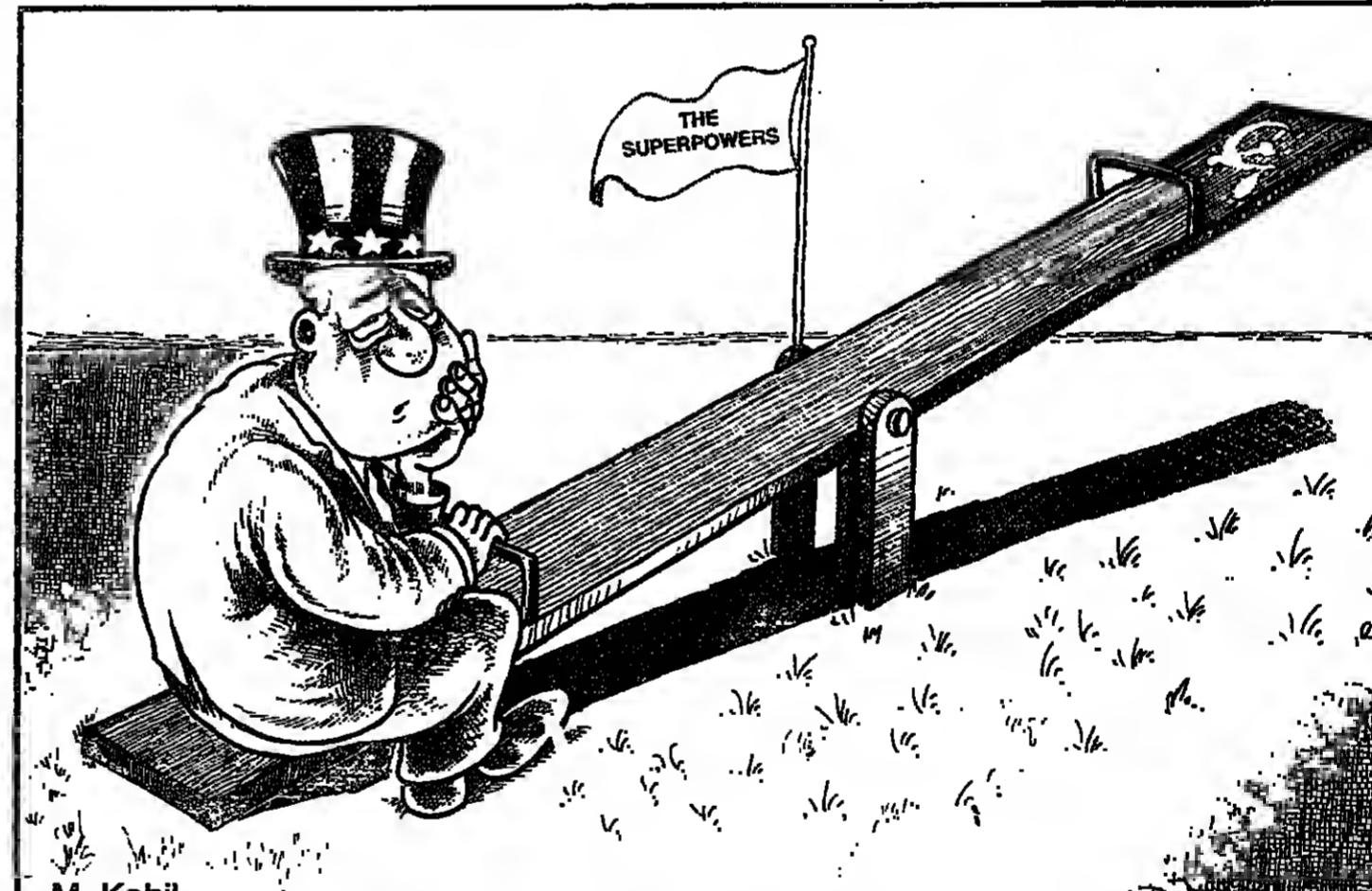
Now, those fears have been realised.

Now much this largely cooperative superpower relationship will change is not immediately apparent.

Most critical would be signals regarding the military. Will the new leaders retract Mr. Gorbachev's pledges to reduce troops and weapons in Europe? Will they honour the freshly signed Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which requires a 35 per cent reduction in Soviet long-range nuclear bombers, missiles and submarines?

But it will be a nimble regime indeed that can quickly restore a sense of borne and abroad that the Soviet Union is still squarely

Does the cold war begin anew?



Reformer Gorbachev replaced amidst economic, political crisis

MOSCOW (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev, who was replaced as president on Monday, brought sweeping political change to the Soviet Union and revolutionised Kremlin foreign policy, only to see the country brought to the brink of economic collapse and political chaos.

After six years of perestroika and new freedoms few could have dreamed of during decades of bardline dictatorship, his popularity has been battered by food shortages, ethnic strife and the struggle to drag the economy into the modern age.

The battle over the shift to a market economy has highlighted deep-set divisions between reformers and conservatives, and left Mr. Gorbachev sitting uncomfortably on the fence.

Internationally, Mr. Gorbachev has altered the superpower relationship, meeting repeatedly American presidents. He has also boosted disarmament, pulled Soviet troops out of Afghanistan, and joined international condemnation of former close ally Iraq.

He has overseen the establishment of diplomatic ties with a number of ideologically alien

states, including South Korea and Saudi Arabia.

In July in London, Mr. Gorbachev met the leaders of the group of seven leading industrial democracies but failed to persuade the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan to bail out his stricken economy.

U.S. President George Bush visited Moscow in late July for a summit meeting that resulted in a major arms control agreement which Mr. Gorbachev said means the cold war will never return.

Mr. Gorbachev paved the way for German unity by allowing a peaceful revolution in Eastern Europe in which bardline communist regimes were successively dismantled and the Warsaw Pact was all but disbanded.

Mr. Gorbachev has altered the superpower relationship, meeting repeatedly American presidents. He has also boosted disarmament, pulled Soviet troops out of Afghanistan, and joined international condemnation of former close ally Iraq.

In the streets, the population is increasingly unimpressed by his other achievements as long as food and basic goods are in

short supply.

Strikes, unprecedented in the Soviet Union, now undermine industrial production.

The Kremlin leadership was jeered during the 1990 annual May Day parade in Moscow's Red Square.

Nationalist ferment is bubbling in the country's fringe republics.

His domestic political reforms included the creation of a multi-party system, and changing the constitution to give real power to the parliaments in Moscow and the 15 republics.

After four years as Communist Party chief, a post he assumed on March 11, 1985, Mr. Gorbachev became president of his country in May 1989, providing himself with a solid legal basis and indirect popular mandate for his powers.

Four months later he purged the ruling politburo of hardliners after sweeping more than 100 old-timers from the policy-making party central committee.

From the summer of 1986 on, he increasingly filled his speeches with attacks on his opponents and pledged no let-up in his drive for change.

He put a premium on unity and discipline in the party, demonstrated in November

1987 when he sanctioned the dismissal of Boris Yeltsin as chief of the Moscow city party for apparently being too zealous.

For many people the most visible aspect of Mr. Gorbachev's rule was his crack-down on drink. Stiff measures to cut vodka output resulted in long queues outside liquor stores and a boom in illegal distilling.

Mr. Gorbachev embarked on street tours of major cities and industrial regions where his breezy, joking style — always coupled with injunctions to work harder — contrasted with the images of frigid and old age of previous Soviet leaders.

During foreign visits, his "walkabouts" among welcoming crowds produced an enthusiasm dubbed "Gorbymania" and nightmares for his security men.

Taking the lead in a new policy towards dissent, he personally telephoned physicist Andrei Sakharov, spiritual leader of the 1970s dissident movement, in December 1986 to tell him he was being freed from internal exile.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gor-

bachev was born into a peasant family on March 2, 1931, in a northern Caucasus village near Stavropol. He took a law degree at Moscow University before returning to work at Stavropol, a major agricultural region.

Party chief in Stavropol at the age of 35, he was summoned to Moscow in 1978 to take charge of agriculture and become a member of the politburo.

Westerners who have met Mr. Gorbachev describe him as a highly intelligent man who displays a charm and ease of manner rare among past Soviet leaders. His wife Raisa also has a self-assurance rarely found among previous Soviet "first ladies."

In May 1990 the Soviet parliament voted him a 160 per cent pay rise, to 2,300 roubles (\$3,680 a month after tax), and gave him official residence near Moscow and in the Crimea.

He lists his hobbies as reading, theatre, music, cinema and walking in the forest.

His daughter Irina, a doctor in Moscow, is married to a surgeon and has two daughters.

[Handwritten signature]

Hardliners topple Gorbachev

(Continued from page 1)

of the Soviet security apparatus — the KGB, the Defense Ministry and the Interior Ministry — as well as the top civilian posts under Mr. Gorbachev, the vice president and the prime minister.

Pavel Voroshilov, a spokesman

for Mr. Yeltsin, said outside the parliament building that Mr. Gorba-

chev had been "detained at his

vacation" in the Crimea.

Leaders in all three republics were holding "emergency meetings and appealing for calm."

Announcements on Leningrad Tele-

vision read the TASS announcement

and said Leningrad's reformists

mayor, Anatoly Sobchak, had been

removed.

Former Foreign Minister Eduard

Shevardnadze, a key architect of Mr.

Gorbachev's reform-minded interna-

tional policies, said the West should

move to back reforms in the Soviet

Union.

"What is happening now is a

tragedy for the West, for the Soviet

Union and for the East as well," he

told the Associated Press.

Some independent Soviet media

were silenced, and word of the

takeover came from official outlets,

such as the TASS news agency.

As supporters beat-and-tank barri-

cades around his headquarters at the

Russian parliament, Mr. Yeltsin said

he was taking control of all Soviet

government institutions on the terri-

tory of his giant republic.

"Officials carrying out decisions of

the State Emergency Committee ...

are removed from their responsibili-

ties." The Russian Federation prosecu-

tor is to take urgent steps to bring

these people to responsibility," Mr.

Yeltsin said.

Mr. Yeltsin's office is on the third

floor of the building, known as the

"Russian White House," about two

blocks from the Kremlin.

The demonstrators erected barri-

cades of bricks and wooden boards in

the streets around the building. They

posted several blue-and-white trolley

buses off their electrified lines and

parked them blocking traffic, across

Kalinin Prospekt, one of Moscow's

main four-lane arteries.

Some members of the peaceful

crowd, holding red, white and blue

Soviet flags, climbed atop the trolley

buses and cheered in support of

Mr. Yeltsin.

"The president of Russia got his

credentials from the people and noth-

else can remove him from those

duties," Mr. Yeltsin told demonstra-

tors.

In a statement read to the Manezh

Square demonstrators, he said: "No

matter what reasons they offer to

justify this, we are having a rightist,

reactionary and unconstitutional coup

attempt."

"I'm not going to order my troops

to shoot Boris Yeltsin," one military

commander was quoted as saying.

It was unclear whether the con-

frontations would lead to large-scale

resistance.

Reports said some internal airports

around the country were being

closed, although airlines said opera-

tions apparently were normal at Mos-

cow's international airport.

Military action was reported in

other Soviet republics. In the break-

away Baltics, Soviet warships re-

portedly blocked the main harbour in

Estonia and troops shelled Lithua-

nian television and radio.

The Soviet military commander of

the Baltic region informed the gov-

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their countries and they faced arrest if

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Sports

Cuba dethrones U.S. as Pan American Games champions

HAVANA (R) — The Pan American Games ended on Sunday with hosts Cuba dethroning the United States as the gold medal champion for the first time since the inaugural games 40 years ago.

After starting the final day one gold medal behind the United States, Cuba's boxers ensured an historic victory by winning 11 of the 12 gold medals in boxing.

Their arch-rivals the United States won the other boxing gold medal.

During the Aug. 2 to 18 competition between the 39 nations of the western hemisphere, Cuba won 149 gold medals to the United States' 130.

The two countries, Cuba with a population of just 10 million and the United States with a population of 250 million, were the only nations to win more than 100 gold medals. Canada finished third with 22 gold medals.

It was the first time the United States had lost the gold medals race since Argentina won the title at the inaugural games in 1951 when the United States sent only a small team, competing in only 15 of the 21 events.

"Cuba was America's sporting Vietnam," one Argentine journalist commented.

The United States had the consolation of winning the most medals overall taking 352, with Cuba second on 265 and Canada third with 126.

The gold medals win was a major political triumph for president Fidel Castro as he struggles to hold the Caribbean island together as one of the world's last Orthodox Communist nations.

There had been scepticism about whether Cuba, which is under siege economically because of a U.S. trade embargo and declining aid from former East European allies, could successfully stage the

games, let alone dethrone the United States as the gold medals winner.

But Mario Vasquez-Rana of Mexico, president of the Pan American Sports Association, said the games went off "perfectly" and had been remarkably free of ill-will.

"If I had to rate the games organisation on a scale of one to ten I would give Cuba 15 (fifteen)," he told reporters on the final day.

Many top American athletes missed the games to compete in other international events like the World Athletics Championship in Tokyo later this month but even their absence could not detract from the Cuban juggernaut.

They outperformed the Americans in events traditionally dominated by the United States like athletics, canoeing and weightlifting and even won their first ever gold medal in swimming.

There was even misery for the United States in the sports they invented like baseball and basketball where the Americans had to be content with just bronze medals.

To make matters worse, the U.S. were knocked out of the gold medal contest in men's basketball and baseball by Puerto Rico, an American territory with a population of just 3.5 million.

Puerto Rico went on to take the gold medal in Basketball beating Mexico but lost the gold medal to Cuba in baseball.

The games also marked the end of a 42-game winning streak by the U.S. women's basketball team which also won only bronze. In another major upset Cuba beat the United States in water polo.

There were some consolations for the United States as their skeet shooting team set the only

FINAL MEDALS TABLE

HAVANA, The final medals table at the end of the Aug. 2 to 18 Pan American Games in Cuba Sunday.

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Cuba	140	62	63	265
U.S.	130	125	97	352
Canada	22	46	59	127
Brazil	21	21	37	79
Mexico	14	23	38	75
Argentina	11	15	29	55
Colombia	5	15	21	41
Venezuela	4	14	20	38
Puerto Rico	3	13	11	27
Chile	2	1	7	10
Jamaica	2	1	5	8
Surinam	1	2	1	4
Trinidad	1	1	—	2
Costa Rica	1	—	1	2
Dom Rep	—	5	4	9
Guateamala	—	1	5	6
Nicaragua	—	1	2	3
Ecuador	—	1	1	2
Bahamas	—	1	1	2
Uruguay	—	1	—	1
Panama	—	1	—	1
Bolivia	—	1	—	1
Peru	—	3	3	6
Virgin Is.	—	2	2	4
Guyana	—	—	1	1
Haiti	—	—	1	1



Pete Sampras

Sampras beats Becker in U.S. Hardcourt final

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Pete Sampras won the U.S. Hardcourt Tennis Championship Sunday, and it was all Boris Becker's fault.

Becker, the top seed and the No. 1 ranked player in the world, double-faulted 10 times, including three straight points in the decisive fourth game of the final set.

Sampras, who came in seeded fifth, said that was the difference in his 7-6, 3-6, 6-3 victory at the Indianapolis Sports Centre.

"The match was based on one game in the third set," he said. "We were even in the first and second sets."

"He played one bad game. He handed it to me, and I took advantage of it. Then I held serve and won the match," said Sampras, who will use the victory as a springboard in Defence of his U.S. Open championship, which begins a week from Monday.

Becker, seeking his third U.S. Hardcourt title in four years, lost the first set on a 7-2 tiebreaker.

Scolding himself and shouting in frustration throughout the second set, Becker broke service twice to even the match at one set apiece.

Both players held serve through the first three games of the third set, and Becker led 15-0 with an ace serve before his string of faults turned the match to Sampras.

Becker, who had made a change of rackets, faulted on seven straight serves, then lost the game on the next point after hitting the ball into the net on Sampras' return.

"I changed my racket, and the tension was much looser," Becker said. "They brought out some new balls that were faster than the old ones. I figured it out after

the first two double-faults. But after that, I had much fear, and that cost me the match.

"I had chances in the third set, but that game changed the match."

Sampras, who moved up to sixth in the computer world rankings with the victory, earned \$137,500 from a purse of \$1 million. Becker got \$72,380.

Sampras had a chance to virtually clinch the match in the sixth game of the final set, when he led Becker 4-1 and was at double-set point. Becker followed with an ace, twice forced the game to deuce and had two more aces for a brief reprieve.

Sampras was on the verge of another break in the eighth game, but the last two of Becker's 12 aces forced the ninth and deciding game. Sampras, who double-faulted only twice all match, easily held serve for the victory.

"I had a couple of set points, and he always seemed to come up with some big serves," Sampras said. "That's why he's a champion. In the third set, I wasn't going to do anything special ... just play my game. I'm not saying if he didn't do that (double-fault). I wasn't going to win, but that's the way it goes. I got my breaks and took advantage of them."

Becker won the only previous meeting between the two, 6-4, 6-4, last year in the semifinals at Stockholm. Sampras' only other victory this year was at Los Angeles.

"My game gets better the more I play," he said. "I think I'm playing better tennis. After losing in the first round at Montreal, I wasn't very confident, but I went to Los Angeles and got on a roll. I'm confident now and looking forward to flushing meadow."

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1995

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 29, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: With the moon in Capricorn trining Venus you might want to make a point out of watching what others are up to so that you are sure not to be overlooking anything new of importance.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)
Spend your day handling those obligations that are a natural part of your everyday living be they official, business or even highly personal.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)
Think out what you have agreed to do with your partners and control that tendency to go off on some tangents which can certainly cause you much trouble.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)
This is your time to actually show that you value the good will of new personalities who have recently come into your life instead of arguing with old high hat compositions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)
Think out what is the best manner in which you can get your promises handled with ease and facility and forget that urge to lambast one you can't abide.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)
Whatever your allies want should be scrupulously worked on by you without all that accent on yourself so no so thoughtful and give others what you deserve.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22)
This is certainly your time to keep attention focused on the pro-

ject at hand even though you'd like to make an excuse about some errand and be off and away.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)
You are able now to find that pleasure that brings you an escape from worry and builds up a new happiness for you don't spend a lot in doing.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)
Your desire for some more peace and quiet at home is gained if you avoid making any of those critical remarks at which you are so adept in doing.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)
This is your moment to actually show your efficiency in a quiet and unpretentious manner and then you get respect of others you deserve.

CAPRICORN: (December 22, to January 20)
You have the need now to show all about you that you do value and appreciate those astute businessmen who have found the clue to security in this current society.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)
This is the time when you have such a restless discontent you want to throw over bounds and do something spectacular but reckless which could cause you real trouble.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)
Now you have it in your power to quietly but effectively get rid of whatever has been bugging you by some personal attention to these problems without comments to others.

Your birth stone = Ambition

World Resources - Dagan & Co. Inc.
Jewelers - Gems

Amman - Rio De Janeiro
Amman - Angra Hotel - 5th Circle

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



"Are you trying to bend over enough to TOUCH your toes or just to see them?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HIWEL

WONIG

GERUDD

PORTSY

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Answer: HE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: JOINT BLOAT SNITCH OSSIFY
Answer: He used to be a yes-man, but now when his wife says no -- HE SAID NO, TOO

THE Daily Crossword



ACROSS

1 Defeats a bridge hand

5 City in Italy

9 Spy

10 Englishman

Young's state

14 South Korean time difference

16 Boast

17 Reign

18 Jason's wife

20 Citizen

21 Tom's cabin

22 Articles

24 Spartan queen

25 Actor James

26 Swallow's kin

32 Roman bronze

35 Highly unusual

36 Livestock feed

38 Conductor

39 Gears

40 Elf school

41 Indian a.g.

43 Adolescents

45 Kennedy: abbr.

46 Is concerned

50 Ger.: river

51 Buckeye state

52 Elf

55 Resident during Al Capone's heyday

59 Mine products

60 "La — del Destino"

62 Queen of Carthage

64 Place of paper

66 Slaughter

68 Ancient Asian mark

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Mr. Benissa in International Markets

CURRENCY	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.6582	1.6279
Deutsche Mark	1.7645	1.8090
Swiss Franc	1.5445	1.4500
French Franc	5.9490	6.1510*
Japanese Yen	157.31	158.00
European Currency Unit	1.1625	1.1355*

120 Per 1000
Interest Rates in 2000 at 1000 LMT
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 19/8/91

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.62	5.75	6.00
Sterling Pound	11.00	10.87	10.81	10.56
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.18	9.31	9.37
Swiss Franc	6.18	6.00	7.03	7.81
French Franc	4.25	4.37	4.37	4.50
Japanese Yen	7.28	7.18	6.93	6.47
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.87	9.87	9.43

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000 Dollars or equivalent
Previous Month Date: 19/8/91

Metal	USD/Oz	JDGm ²	Metal	USD/Oz	JDGm ²
Gold	364.55	6.90	Silver	4.04	.095

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 19/8/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.692	.694
Sterling Pound	1.1167	1.1221
Deutsche Mark	1.2770	1.2791
Swiss Franc	1.3770	1.3921
French Franc	1.1152	1.1158
Japanese Yen	1.4990	1.5015
Dutch Guilder	1.3484	1.3501
Swedish Krona	1.0775	1.0800
Italian Lira	1.0525	1.0518
Belgian Franc	1.01905	1.01915

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 19/8/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.7950	1.8050
Lebanese Lira	.0760	.775
Saudi Riyal	.1840	.1847
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	1.8242	1.872
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2200
Omani Riyal	1.47500	1.7650
UAE Dirham	.1872	.1880
Greek Drachma	.3500	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.4000	1.4300

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Markets

Index	17/8/91 Close	18/8/91 Close
All-Share	109.08	108.56
Banking Sector	103.01	102.02
Insurance Sector	117.42	117.66
Industry Sector	115.33	115.44
Services Sector	127.65	127.54

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6240/50	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.4583/63	Canadian dollar	Deutschmarks
	1.8230/40	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
	2.0530/50	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs
	1.5520/30	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
37.41/45	36.17/25	Belgian francs	French francs
1356/1357	137.85/95	French francs	Italian lire
137.85/95	6.59/20/70	Italian lire	Japanese yen
6.0925/75	6.0925/75	Japanese yen	Swedish kronas
7.0100/50	361.90/362.40	Swedish kronas	Norwegian kronas
		Danish kronas	U.S. dollars

To Be Opened Soon Nabil Mashini Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 10:30 p.m.

CONCORD Tel: 677420

PRINCIPAL

Show: 5:10, 8:30 p.m.

NIJOM Tel: 675571

To Be Opened Soon Nabil Mashini Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 10:30 p.m.

Foreign cash aid to Algeria hinges on report from IMF

ALGIERS (R) — Foreign funding to help Algeria out of its debt crisis hinges on International Monetary Fund (IMF) approval of planned economic reforms, Economy Minister Hocine Benissa said Sunday.

"We are in the stage of talking with banks, financial institutions and the European Community (ECI) to obtain finance. All are agreed to provide finance to boost our balance of payments but they are waiting the IMF team report," Mr. Benissa told parliament during debate on a mini-budget.

He said the IMF was due to report on an agreement to raise prices and limit a subsidy tax. Algeria was committed under an agreement with the former government to accept IMF conditions.

"We have inherited from the former government an agreement which limits our scope for manoeuvre and this pact contains conditions which we must respect," Mr. Benissa told deputies.

"It imposes firstly that we lift price subsidies during the year and limit the imposition of the compensation tax at the end of this year. If the IMF conclusions are negative it will reflect a negative sign for our creditors, who could adopt a non-positive position towards Algeria which will have serious repercussion in the

short term," Mr. Benissa added. If Algeria respected the agreement, he said, the IMF would give the green light for financial policy to go ahead.

Algeria's foreign debt totals \$25 billion, much of it short term. The government ruled out rescheduling despite problems caused by falling oil prices and a devalued dinar.

The minister said the government would free prices but would also protect the poorest among Algeria's 25 million people.

In March the main trade union, the UGTA, launched the first two-day general strike in the country's history to protest at price increases. Official figures showed 80 per cent of workers — more than four million — backed the call.

IMF Director-General Michel Camdessus visited Algeria in July for discussions with the new government and urged commercial banks to help the country.

The mini-budget envisages raising spending by \$5.5 billion dinars (\$3 billion). Debate on changes to the compensation tax continued.

The tax, additional to customs tariffs, is levied on most imports between 25 and 100 per cent of their value. Revenue goes to a fund to help subsidise basic needs of the poor.

Meanwhile the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) has

reported that Algeria plans to boost its crude oil recovery rates and earn cash to foreign companies for a limited period.

The Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter said its detailed account of Algerian plans were based on explanations by Minister Energy Nordin Ait Laoussine.

It said Algeria does not have access to technology and money to boost recovery rates at its fields — to 30 to 40 per cent from the current 25 per cent — and would need foreign firms money and technical know-how.

Recovery rates show the amount of oil that could be produced from underground crude reserves. By using sophisticated and costly methods — like injecting chemicals into the reservoir — the volume of oil pumped could be increased.

An increase in recovery rates will push production capacity and recoverable reserves dramatically.

MEES said oil in place at Algeria's biggest oil field Hassi Messaoud is 40 billion barrels and at 20 per cent recovery rate only eight billion barrels could be produced, but if the recovery rate was increased to 30 or 40 per cent the amount of oil that could be produced would increase by another four to eight billion barrels.

Mr. Ghosali had indicated his government hoped to gain \$6 to \$7 billion in advance payments for production rights.

Foreign companies willing to

take part in Algeria's proposed scheme would be granted production rights for a certain volume of crude for a specific period one.

"The volume of oil subject to the companies' production rights would be in some way related to the amount of the investment in question, the extra output to be recovered as a result of the investment, and the size of the advance payment," MEES said.

It said the details of the scheme is yet to be worked out.

"Although he concedes that the proposed policy of granting foreign companies production rights in respect of existing oil-fields is a politically loaded issue, Mr. Ait Laoussine has no doubts that it is very much in the interests of Algeria from an economic standpoint," MEES said.

Algeria had signed oil exploration agreement with foreign firms, but this is a risky and lengthy way of boosting production capacity and reserves, MEES said.

Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghosali had recently announced that his government was prepared to sell 20 to 25 per cent of oil output rights at Hassi Messaoud oilfield in order to earn some foreign currency, MEES said.

Mr. Ghosali had indicated his government hoped to gain \$6 to \$7 billion in advance payments for production rights.

Stock prices get knocked

Gorbachev's ouster kicks up dollar, gold and oil prices

LONDON (Agencies) — Worldwide stocks plunged while the U.S. dollar, gold and oil prices surged following word that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was ousted from power by hardline conservatives.

Ten central banks stepped in to calm the foreign exchange markets, while at least two European stock exchanges suspended trading.

"There is no reason for people to panic in terms of the international markets, either the exchange market or the stock exchanges, and I hope they won't," Britain's Prime Minister John Major told reporters.

But dealers said trading was hectic and volatile throughout the world. One London oil broker, speaking anonymously, said, "everybody's got chaos all over the place."

Mr. Gorbachev's replacement "is probably the worst possible thing to impact on Western sentiment," said Ian Stephenson, head of equity sales at Salomon Brothers International in London.

Among the hardest hit was Germany because of its closeness to the Soviet Union. The DAX stock index closed down 155.40 points to 1,497.93.

In London, the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-stock index tumbled 109.4 points, or 4.2 per cent, at 2,511.6, by midday.

Gold opened in London at \$362.10 per ounce, up \$3.85 from \$358.25 per ounce late Friday. At midmorning, bullion dealers fixed gold at a price of \$360.75.

In Zurich gold traded at \$362.50 an ounce from Friday's close of \$357.75. In Hong Kong, gold rose \$4.95 to close at \$363.33 an ounce.

The dollar also soared against the British pound, which was quoted at \$1.6215 compared with \$1.6110 late Friday.

Earlier in Tokyo, the

Fighting resumes on eve of talks on Yugoslavia's future

BELGRADE (R) — Fighting resumed Monday in a new conflict zone which Croatia says is the planned frontier of a greater Serbian state, dealing another blow a day before top-level talks on Yugoslavia's future.

Croatian radio reported renewed clashes in Okucani, 120 kilometres east of the republic's capital Zagreb, where several people were reported killed when security forces fought Serbian guerrillas for two days before a lull Sunday.

It gave no details.

Guerrillas attacked the Croatian police station in Pakrac, a mainly Serbian-populated town 25 kilometres to the north.

"The statin is under huge attack from every direction," police in nearby Bjelovar said.

The Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug said there was intensive mortar shelling and gunfire in

nearby towns along a main road leading north to the Hungarian border.

All the flashpoints are in hitherto tranquil western Slavonia, an ethnically mixed area where local Serbs declared their autonomy from Croatia last week.

Federal army units moved tanks into the trouble-spots and army jets strafed Croatian positions Saturday. Croatia said Monday four soldiers, three members of the Croatian forces and at least 12 guerrillas had been killed at the weekend.

West Slavonia links up with the Serbian-held enclave of Krajina south of Zagreb. Croatia says Serbia, which it accuses of directing the guerrillas and the army, wants these areas to form its new western borders if federal Yugoslavia collapses.

Two days of talks on the future

shape of Yugoslavia are due to open Tuesday, involving the federal presidency and the more powerful presidents of Yugoslavia's six republics including adversaries Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic.

An adviser to Tudjman saw little chance of progress. "I don't know what can be negotiated as long as Serbia wants to create greater Serbia," he said at the weekend.

Stipe Mesic, a Croat who chairs Yugoslavia's eight-man collective presidency, hinted Sunday he might resign if the army did not curb its activities.

Monday's fresh fighting spelled failure for a latest plea for peace Saturday night, when the president urged the warring sides to stick to a tattered ceasefire it declared on Aug. 7.

Croatia has vowed to hold on to Okucani and to Kijevo, an isolated village in Krajina which guerrillas said Croat forces must quit by Tuesday or be "devastated."

Two powerful bombs also exploded overnight at a Jewish community centre and cemetery in Zagreb, but no one was hurt.

The Croatian government condemned the bombings as attempts by terrorists — a term it usually uses for Serbian guerrillas — to blacken its name.

Some of Croatia's 600,000-strong Serbian minority say they fear an independent Croatia would be similar to one installed by the Nazis in World War II.

More than 200 people have been killed in clashes between Serbs and Croats, the two biggest ethnic groups, since Croatia and Slovenia declared independence generally being adhered to.

Analysts say by the issue of monitoring the truce has intensified in recent weeks as both sides allege serious violations.

Gen. Dubuama's current mission is to help the U.N. chief decide, among other things, the size of the U.N. force needed to monitor those agreements.

The team of 12 military and civilian experts is to assemble in Bangkok late Monday, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The team is led by Gen. Timothy Dubuama of Ghana, military adviser to Mr. Perez de Cuellar at the request of Cambodia's warring factions, will visit areas controlled by the guerrillas and by the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh, the official said.

The team, sent by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the request of Cambodia's warring factions, will visit areas controlled by the guerrillas and by the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh, the official said.

The Khmer Rouge radio said it was vital that a U.N. monitoring force be sent as soon as possible.

It suggested earlier that an alternative would be for a transitional U.N. authority to be sent "straightaway."

U.N. team to study Cambodian truce

BANGKOK (AP) — A United Nations team prepared Monday to study how the world body can strengthen a declared truce in Cambodia's 12-year war, a U.N. official said.

The four Cambodian factions signed a formal agreement June 24 calling for a truce and a halt to receiving arms supplies from foreign countries. The resistance received arms principally from China, while the Vietnamese-installed government had been Soviet-backed.

Gen. Dubuama's current mission is to help the U.N. chief decide, among other things, the size of the U.N. force needed to monitor those agreements.

He will also look into other military matters, including the Cambodians' request for help in clearing the country of hundreds of thousands of land mines.

The U.N. official said the team is expected to be in Phnom Penh for a week starting Friday. The group will also visit bases in or near Thailand run by the guerrilla groups — the Communist Khmer Rouge, the forces of Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Mr. Son Sann's group.

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